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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/573,195

02/26/2008

Raymond J. Hicks

348-101

5056

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7590

09/15/2011

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EXAMINER

YOUNG, EDWIN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3655

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

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PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/573,195	<b>Applicant(s)</b> HICKS, RAYMOND J.	
	<b>Examiner</b> EDWIN A. YOUNG	<b>Art Unit</b> 3655	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 March 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on \_\_\_\_; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.
- 4) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 5a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 9) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 10) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 March 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/22/2006</u> .   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.                          |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

This is the first action on the merits for application 10/573,195. Responsive to the preliminary amendment filed 3/22/2006, claims 1-17 are currently pending in this application.

#### ***Priority***

Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed in parent Application No. PCT/BG2004/003993, filed on 9/20/2004.

#### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 3/22/2006 has been considered by the examiner.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

Claim 1, line 3 states, "an intermediate star train". The specification does not adequately describe what a star train is.

Claim 6, lines 1-2 state, "an additional intermediate solar train". The specification does not adequately describe what a solar train is.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The terms "high ratio", "high torque" and "low torque" in claim 1 are relative terms which render the claim indefinite. The terms "high" and "low" are not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention. It is unclear what constitutes a high ratio, high torque or low torque.

The terms "high torque" and "low torque" in claim 1 are further unclear as to whether they are referring to a torque capacity of the gear train or a torque transmission ratio of the gear train.

Claim 1, line 2 states, "in one or other", which is unclear. Line 2 should be amended to state - in one- -.

Claim 1, line 3 states, "an intermediate star train". It is unclear what a star train is. Neither the specification nor the claims provide an adequate description of a star train.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "the combined power" in lines 3-4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. This limitation should be changed to - -a combined power from the paths- - to clarify what is being combined.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "the total torque" in line 4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. This limitation should be changed to - -a total torque- -.

Claim 6, lines 1-2 state, "an additional intermediate solar train". It is unclear what a solar train is. Neither the specification nor the claims provide an adequate description of a solar train.

Regarding claim 7, it is unclear what differentiates a solar train from a planetary train. A solar train appears to be a planetary train, which results in claim 7 failing to further limit claim 6.

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

BUCKNOR et al. (US 2003/0162629 A1) discloses planetary transmissions (see Figs. 1a-15b).

BUCKNOR et al. (US 6,729,993) discloses planetary transmissions (see Figs. 1a-14b).

LEE et al. (US 6,723,019) discloses planetary transmissions (see Figs. 1a-16b).

Art Unit: 3655

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to EDWIN A. YOUNG whose telephone number is (571)272-4781. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David D. Le can be reached on 571-272-7092. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/EDWIN A YOUNG/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3655